of measures to increase the supply of cement in the market to cater to increased demand. These include facilitating import by reducing the import duty on cement to 'Nil', removal of countervailing duty and special additional customs duty. Further, MMTC Ltd., a Government of India enterprises, TANCEM, a State Government enterprises of Tamil Nadu and M/s. Puducherry Agro Services Industries Corporation (PASIC) have been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 to enable availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market. With these measures, the average price of cement has stabilized to a large extent showing an increase of only 4.44% between March, 2007 and March, 2008. The setting up of Cement Regulatory Authority is, therefore, not considered necessary.

(b) MRTP Commission, a quasi judicial body, is already seized of the matter regarding cartelization by the cement companies.

FDI in electronic and sports goods sectors

2501. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to allow FDI in retail in specific sectors such as electronics and sports goods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in retail trade except in single brand product retailing. The policy on FDI is reviewed on a continuing basis through an inter-Ministerial consultation process with a view to rationalization/liberalization of the policy. The Government has assigned a study to the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) on the impact of organized retailing on the unorganized retail sector, as also another study to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on growth linkages of FDI in India. Any review of the sectoral FDI policy in retail, including for the electronics and sports goods, would await the submission of these two reports and their consideration by the Government.

Lowering price of cement

2502. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had warned cement industry of being taken over in case the price of cement was not lowered;

(b) if so, whether the cement industry has heeded the warning and reduced the price of cement, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action Government are contemplating against the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The prices of cement increased sharply between December,